

Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, XIUZHEN GUO, and JIAMOU HONG bring this action under 42 USC 1983 and 1988 and New York State law to redress Defendants' violations of the rights and immunities secured to Plaintiff by the United States Constitution and New York State law. On December 11, 2008, at about 10:45 p.m. the Plaintiff JIN HONG, resided with her husband, who is Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG, Mother, who is Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO, father,

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

hereby respectfully allege as follows:

Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO by and through their attorneys, SHARIFOV & RUSSELL, LLP, as and for their complaint herein,

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THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NASSAU
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE
OFFICER MICHAEL PALAZZO, SERGEANT
JEIVER ESPINOSA, POLICE OFFICER
DANIELA FARRELL, POLICE OFFICER SCOTT
FERRARA, POLICE OFFICER DANIEL FLIEDNER,
SERGEANT RUSSELL MARINELLO, POLICE
OFFICER GERARD PEYER, POLICE OFFICER
KEVIN MUNNELLY, POLICE OFFICER SEAN
MASS, POLICE OFFICER JAMES PETTANATO,
POLICE OFFICER YOLANDA TURNER,
POLICE OFFICER JAMES MALONEY, and
POLICE OFFICER THOMAS WILSON,
Defendants.

-against- Case No.: 10-cv-1112 (LDW)

Plaintiffs, JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFFS' FIRST
AMENDED COMPLAINT

-----X
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JIAMOU HONG, who is now deceased, and twin four-year-old sons at 182 Village Road, Manhasset, New York, looked outside her window and saw police lights. She went outside to investigate and see if she could be of assistance, and was shocked to see a giant man running toward her screaming obscenities who then lunged at her and grabbed her, handcuffed her, and continued verbally assaulting her for several minutes. The assailant was Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, who is a Nassau County police officer and professional body builder, who had just crashed his police cruiser into a tree that is in close proximity to the house, but obstructed from sight by a fence and several trees. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO handcuffed Plaintiff JIN HONG without any justification for doing so and then called for backup, claiming that a motorist he was chasing had caused him to crash his police cruiser into a tree. The other Defendants, POLICE JEFFER ESPINOSA, POLICE OFFICER DANIELA FARRELL, POLICE OFFICER SCOTT FERRARA, POLICE OFFICER DANIEL FLIEDNER, SERGEANT RUSSELL MARINELLO, POLICE OFFICER GERARD PEYER, POLICE OFFICER KEVIN MUNNELLY, POLICE OFFICER SEAN MASS, POLICE OFFICER JAMES PETTANATO, POLICE OFFICER YOLANDA TURNER, POLICE OFFICER JAMES MALONEY, and POLICE OFFICER THOMAS WILSON (the "other Defendant Police Officer's"), arrived on the scene and MICHAEL PALAZZO led them into Plaintiffs' home with his gun drawn, and without a warrant, consent, or probable cause to do so. Thereafter, the Defendant Police Officers, led by MICHAEL PALAZZO, entered the marital bedroom and woke Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG, who was asleep with one of the couple's four-year old twin sons, up at gunpoint and began asking him many questions, including where his green card was and what clothes he was wearing that day. The police searched the entire room and then moved onto the room where JIAMOU HONG, was sleeping. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO pushed the

door open and began screaming loudly him, grabbed him by the shoulder, physically ripped him from his bed, and then again yanked him into the hallway when he paused in an attempt to pick up from the floor a shirt to wear. The other Defendant Police Officers barged into the room where Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO, was asleep with the other four-year-old boy. The other Police Officer Defendants, along with MICHAEL PALAZZO, woke them up, and herded them to the hallway where the Defendants forced the entire family, except JIN HONG who was still handcuffed outside, to wait for over thirty minutes while they canvassed, searched, and ransacked every single room in the house. Several of the Police Officer Defendants guarded the Plaintiffs and would not let them move at all, despite repeated pleas from XIUZHEN GUO and JIAMOU HONG that they be allowed to sit down to relieve the excruciating pain in their weak arthritic knees. The Defendants confiscated the Plaintiffs' immigration papers and Plaintiff JIN HONG was forced to wait outside handcuffed in the pouring rain until they finished the search. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Defendant Police Officers exited the house, placed Plaintiff JIN HONG in the police cruiser and brought her to the Sixth Precinct. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely charged her with six violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law ("VTL") and one misdemeanor Penal Law violation, Unlawful Fleeing of a Police Officer in the Third Degree. The Plaintiff is completely innocent of these charges and was kindly walking outside to offer help at the time she was arrested. In the charges Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO filed, he falsely claimed that he had observed JIN HONG driving a vehicle that was committing traffic infractions, and that when he tried to stop her, she turned off her headlights and accelerated to a high rate of speed in an attempt to flee the traffic stop. He claimed that he then apprehended JIN HONG, but did not disclose his own car crash, or the aggressive search of the Plaintiffs' home. The Plaintiff, JIN HONG, was released on \$500 police

acts complained of herein occurred within this District.

5. That venue for this action properly lies in the Eastern District of New York because the

VENUE

false arrest; malicious prosecution; and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

damages, both compensatory and punitive, as well as attorney's fees, for assault; battery;

4. That the Plaintiffs, invoking the pendent jurisdiction of this Court, also seeks monetary

3. That jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1367.

Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

2. That this action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988 and the Fourth and

attorney's fees.

1. That this is a civil action, seeking compensatory damages, punitive damages, and

JURISDICTION

of emotional distress, through this complaint.

other torts including assault, battery, false arrest, malicious prosecution, and intentional infliction

wages, and seek redress for Defendants' violations of their civil and constitutional rights, and

including physical symptoms, extreme emotional distress, loss of employment opportunity, lost

on March 25, 2010. The Plaintiffs have all suffered extreme damages from this incident

adjudged in contemplation of dismissal for a period of one day, and was dismissed and sealed

all charges brought under the VTL were dismissed. On March 24, 2010, the final charge was

false charges which he caused to be filed in court over the following months. On June 15, 2009

District Attorney's Office by MICHAEL PALAZZO, who then prepared two additional sets of

custody at arraignment when her bail was raised based on false information provided to the

bail the following morning, and issued a desk appearance ticket, only to be taken back into

6. That at all times relevant hereto, Plaintiffs, JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, and XIUZHEN GUO, were and are natural persons, residing in the County of Nassau, State of New York.
7. Plaintiffs JIN HONG and YONG HUA DONG are United States Citizens, and the Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO is a legal permanent resident of the United States.
8. That Plaintiff JIN HONG was arrested in this case, and the police entered into her house where her husband, YONG HUA DONG, was sleeping with their young son.
9. That XIUZHEN GUO is Plaintiff JIN HONG's mother and victimized by the Defendants in this case.
10. The Plaintiff JIAMOU HONG is the Plaintiff JIN HONG's father and was victimized by the Defendants conduct in this case.
11. That at all times relevant hereto, Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU was and is a municipal corporation duly existing under, and operating by virtue of the laws of New York State.
12. That at all times relevant hereto, Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU was and is a municipal corporation doing business in the State of New York.
13. That at all times relevant hereto, Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU did and does operate, manage, maintain, and control Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT in conducting its municipal function within the State of New York.
14. That at all relevant times hereto, Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU employed police officers to work as representatives of THE COUNTY OF NASSAU.

PARTIES

PALAZZO was operating radio motor patrol vehicle number 639 (RMP 639), which is

19. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL

FACTS

negligently cause injuries to others including the Plaintiffs.

conduct themselves in a manner so as not to intentionally, recklessly, wantonly, or

DEPARTMENT had a duty to ensure its servants, employees, and representatives

18. That at all times relevant hereto the Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE

including the Plaintiffs.

as not to intentionally, recklessly, wantonly, or negligently cause injuries to others

to ensure its servants, employees, and representatives conduct themselves in a manner so

17. That at all times relevant hereto the Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU had a duty

the color of state law.

by the Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, and were acting under

OFFICER THOMAS WILSON, were and are natural persons employed as police officers

YOLANDA TURNER, POLICE OFFICER JAMES MALONEY, and POLICE

OFFICER SEAN MASS, POLICE OFFICER JAMES PETTANATO, POLICE OFFICER

OFFICER GERARD PEYER, POLICE OFFICER KEVIN MUNNELLY, POLICE

OFFICER DANIEL FLIEDNER, SERGEANT RUSSELL MARINELLO, POLICE

OFFICER DANIELA FARRELL, POLICE OFFICER SCOTT FERRARA, POLICE

16. That at all times relevant hereto, Defendant POLICE JEVIER ESPINOSA, POLICE

DEPARTMENT and was acting under the color of state law.

person employed as a police officer by the Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE

15. That at all times relevant hereto, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was and is a natural

- owned or leased by both Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT and Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU.
20. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was on duty as a police officer, employed by the Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, which is managed by, controlled by, and exists under law by virtue of, Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU.
21. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO operated RMP 639 in a careless, wonton, and negligent manner in the vicinity of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York, and as a result of said conduct, was veered off the road crashing RMP 639 into a tree in the vicinity of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.
22. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was not engaged in a police pursuit of any vehicle at the time he crashed RMP 639 into a tree in the vicinity of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.
23. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., the property located at 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York was completely obscured by a fence and trees from the vantage point of the location where Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO crashed RMP 639, making it impossible for Defendant PALAZZO to see anyone entering or exiting 182 Village Drive.
24. That the Plaintiff JIN HONG and the Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG own the property located at 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.
25. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., neither Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, nor the other Police Officer Defendants, nor Defendants NASSAU

- COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, nor THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, had consent or any other lawful reason to enter the property located at 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.
26. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., the Plaintiff JIN HONG was present in the driveway of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.
27. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., neither the Plaintiff JIN HONG, nor any person present at 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York, was recently involved in, presently involved in, or about to be involved in, the commission of any crime, offense, or any other activity in violation of any law.
28. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO did not have probable cause, reasonable suspicion, or any other lawful basis to believe that the Plaintiff JIN HONG, or anyone else present at 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York, was recently involved in, presently involved in, or about to be involved in, the commission of any crime, offense, or any other activity in violation of any law.
29. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, unlawfully and illegally entered the property of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York and approached the Plaintiff JIN HONG by running toward her screaming obscenities.
30. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO screamed words to the effect of "you made me crash my car you stupid bitch," and failed to identify himself as a police officer to the Plaintiff JIN HONG.

31. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO intended to, and did in fact, cause the Plaintiff JIN HONG imminent apprehension of offensive or harmful bodily contact by running toward her in the middle of a dark rainy night screaming obscenities and without identifying himself as a police officer.
32. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO arrested the Plaintiff JIN HONG by grabbing her by the arms and shoulders and handcuffing her.
33. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:50 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO intended to, and did in fact, cause the Plaintiff JIN HONG to suffer offensive or harmful bodily contact when he grabbed her shoulder and arms and arrested her without identifying himself as a police officer and without any legal justification.
34. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO did not have probable cause to arrest the Plaintiff JIN HONG for any offense.
35. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO knew that he did not have probable cause to arrest the Plaintiff JIN HONG for any offense.
36. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m., the Plaintiff JIN HONG did not provoke, resist, or consent to illegal arrest of her effected by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO.
37. That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 10:51 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO intended to, and did in fact, confine Plaintiff JIN HONG when he arrested her

PALAZZO falsely arrested the Plaintiff JIN HONG for causing his police car to crash for

43. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL

caused to RMP 639 by crashing it into a tree.

Plaintiff JIN HONG of causing the damage that Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO

PALAZZO falsely arrested the Plaintiff JIN HONG for the purpose of falsely accusing

42. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL

such weapon or instrument.

provide Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO with reasonable suspicion she possessed any

weapon or instrument, and Plaintiff JIN HONG did not make any movements that would

instrument capable of injuring him, Plaintiff JIN HONG did not in fact possess any such

PALAZZO did not observe the Plaintiff JIN HONG in possession of any weapon or

41. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL

PALAZZO used greater force than was necessary in arresting the Plaintiff JIN HONG.

40. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL

confinement was not justifiable by any privilege.

arrested by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO without probable cause, and the

39. That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 10:51 p.m., the Plaintiff JIN HONG was

her.

conscious of the fact she was confined when Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO arrested

38. That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 10:51 p.m., Plaintiff JIN HONG was

leave the scene.

by grabbing and handcuffing her, and deprived Plaintiff JIN HONG of her liberty to

COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, to cause other Defendant police officers employed

PALAZZO used the radio issued to him by his employer, Defendant THE NASSAU

47. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:55 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL

the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

incarcerated, and deprived of her liberty, in violation of the rights guaranteed to her by

DEPARTMENT, which caused the Plaintiff JIN HONG to be falsely seized, arrested,

official policy, custom, or practice of Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE

causing a vehicle crash by leading him on a high speed vehicle pursuit, as part of an

46. That Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely accused the Plaintiff JIN HONG of

its own employee Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO.

financial liability of the crash caused by the wonton, reckless, and negligent conduct, of

purpose of sparing Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU the embarrassment and

targeted in a police pursuit to blame the Plaintiff JIN HONG for causing the crash for the

PALAZZO falsely accused the Plaintiff JIN HONG of being the driver of a vehicle

45. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL

negligent conduct, of its own employee Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO.

embarrassment and financial liability of the crash caused by the wonton, reckless, and

purpose of sparing Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT the

targeted in a police pursuit to blame the Plaintiff JIN HONG for causing the crash for the

PALAZZO falsely accused the Plaintiff JIN HONG of being the driver of a vehicle

44. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 10:51 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL

financial liability of the crash caused by his wonton, reckless, and negligent conduct.

the purpose of sparing Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO the embarrassment and

- by Defendants NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT and THE COUNTY OF NASSAU to arrive at the scene and aid, abet, and act in concert with Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, and each other, to deprive the Plaintiff JIN HONG of her civil and constitutional rights.
48. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:00 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO engaged in misconduct in falsely arresting the Plaintiff JIN HONG for the purpose of procuring false evidence against her.
49. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:00 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO did in fact procure false evidence from Plaintiff JIN HONG in that he created a notice of intent to use a statement made by a defendant, pursuant to section 710.30 of the New York Criminal Procedure Law, by falsely claiming Plaintiff JIN HONG made a statement during the encounter.
50. That Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO created the encounter in which to falsely claim Plaintiff JIN HONG made an inculpatory statement to him by falsely arresting her and then falsely completing a notice of intent to offer statement evidence, thereby intentionally procuring false evidence by, through, and as a direct result of, his misconduct in falsely arresting Plaintiff JIN HONG.
51. That Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO did procure false evidence in the form of a statement which would implicate Plaintiff in the criminal conduct Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely claimed to have witnessed, thereby causing the Plaintiff JIN HONG to be deprived of her liberty as direct result of the false evidence procured by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO's misconduct, in that Plaintiff JIN HONG was arrested based on this falsely obtained evidence.

52. That the other Defendant Police Officers, who all were and are employed by Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, and were on duty in their capacity as representatives of Defendant THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, drove the vehicles issued to them by their Defendant NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT to 182 Village Drive in response to a request made for assistance by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:05 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO caused other patrol cars containing the other Police Officer Defendants to arrive on the premises of 182 Village Drive, Manhasset, New York.

54. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:05 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely advised the other Police Officer Defendants that he had crashed RMP 639 into a tree while engaged in a vehicle pursuit.

55. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:07 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO caused the other Police Officer Defendants to enter the Plaintiffs' house with him by advising them that they would be searching for a suspect Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was pursuing when he crashed his cruiser into a tree, who he observed enter the Plaintiffs' house, and who could be identified by wet clothes caused by the rain.

56. That other Police Officer Defendants knew or should have known that Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was falsely claiming to have been involved in a vehicle pursuit, and that Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was falsely claiming that a person he was pursuing in a vehicle pursuit entered the Plaintiffs' house located at 182 Village Drive in Manhasset, New York because the location where he crashed RMP 639 was not even in view of the Plaintiffs' house and Plaintiff JIN HONG was already standing outside of the

PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other

62. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:09 p.m., the Defendants, MICHAEL HUA DONG imminent apprehension of offensive bodily contact.

and acting in concert with each other, intended to, and did, cause the Plaintiff YONG PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other

61. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:09 p.m., the Defendants, MICHAEL point.

and ordered Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG and his four year old son from the bed at gun Manhasset, New York, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO entered the marital bedroom

60. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:09 p.m., at 182 Village Drive bedroom with one of his four year old sons.

Manhasset, New York, the Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG was asleep in the marital

59. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:07 p.m., at 182 Village Drive her husband Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG.

warrant, consent, or justification, entered the house owned by Plaintiff JIN HONG and and acting in concert with each other, illegally, unlawfully, willfully, and without any

PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other 58. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:07 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL

in a vehicle pursuit at the time he crashed RMP 639 into a tree.

57. That on December 11, 2008, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO was not in fact involved falsely claimed to have been pursuing.

home handcuffed, after being arrested as the suspect Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO

63. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:11 p.m., at 182 Village Drive Manhasset, New York, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, entered the room where Jiamou Hong was sleeping.
64. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:11 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO physically grabbed JIAMOU HONG by the shoulder, ripped him from the bed, and screamed in his face.
65. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:11 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intended to, and did, cause the Plaintiff JIAMOU HONG, imminent apprehension of offensive bodily contact.
66. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:11 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intended to, and did, cause the Plaintiff JIAMOU HONG, to suffer harmful or offensive bodily contact.
67. That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 11:12 p.m. the Police Officer Defendants barged into a room where Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO was sleeping with one of JIN HONG and YONG HUA DONG's twin four-year-old sons.
68. That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 11:13 p.m. several of the Police Officer Defendants ordered XIUZHEN GUO and her grandson from the bed and ordered them to the hall where YONG HUA DONG and his son were already being forced to stand.

and refused their repeated pleas to be allowed to move around and sit down to relieve the YONG HUA DONG, and JIAMOU HONG's movement to a small hallway in their home physical force, and under the color of state law, restricted Plaintiffs' XIUZHEN GUO, and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, through the threat of

Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding That on December 11, 2008, between approximately 11:10 p.m. and 11:45 p.m.,

74. XIUZHEN GUO's immigration papers and then confiscated them. PALAZZO instructed Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG to retrieve JIAMOU HONG and

73. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:15 p.m., Defendant MICHAEL drawers and cabinets, and touched every piece of clothing they could find.

Defendants ransacked the room Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO was sleeping in, went through That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 11:15 p.m. several of the Police Officer

72. XIUZHEN GUO to suffer offensive bodily contact.

and acting in concert with each other, intended to, and did in fact, cause the Plaintiff PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:15 p.m., Defendants, MICHAEL

71. XIUZHEN GUO imminent apprehension of offensive bodily contact.

and acting in concert with each other, intended to, and did in fact, cause the Plaintiff PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:15 p.m., the Defendants, MICHAEL

70. but they ignored her.

Police Officer Defendants that she could barely stand the pain in her weak arthritic knees That on December 11, 2008 at approximately 11:15 p.m. XIUZHEN GUO tried to tell the

74.

73.

72.

71.

70.

69.

- extreme pain caused by being forced to stand up without support for their weak and injured knees.
75. That on December 11, 2008 between approximately 11:10 p.m. and 11:45 p.m., the Plaintiffs XIUZHEN GUO, JIAMOU HONG, and YONG HUA DONG never resisted or provoked Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO or the other Police Officer Defendants, or provided them with any reason to believe there were weapons or dangerous weapons capable of injuring the officers in the house.
76. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:45 p.m., Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants walked back outside of the Plaintiffs' house and back into the driveway where Plaintiff JIN HONG remained handcuffed, in custody, and soaked from the pouring rain.
77. That on December 11, 2008, at approximately 11:45 p.m. Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO and one of the other Police Officer Defendants, placed the Plaintiff JIN HONG into the other Police Officer Defendant's marked police vehicle and transported her to the Sixth Precinct.
78. That on December 12, 2008 at approximately 2:00 a.m., the Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO issued the Defendant JIN HONG uniform traffic tickets falsely charging the offenses of Reckless Driving (VTL § 1212), driving at a speed not reasonable and prudent (VTL § 1180(a)), two counts of Failure to Properly Signal (VTL § 1163(a)), Failure to Yield (VTL § 1143), and Driving a Vehicle Without Proper Headlights (VTL § 375(2)(a)), and a Desk Appearance Ticket falsely charging her with Unlawfully Fleeing the Police in the Third Degree (N.Y. Penal Law § 270.25), a Class A misdemeanor.

79. That the uniform traffic tickets and desk appearance tickets Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO issued the Plaintiff JIN HONG all required her to appear for arraignment on December 26, 2008 in Nassau County First District Court.
80. That on December 26, 2008 the Plaintiff JIN HONG appeared in court for arraignment and based on the false allegations submitted by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, the prosecutor requested that bail be set in the amount of \$1,500.
81. That the Plaintiff JIN HONG entered a not guilty plea and was taken back into custody after the Honorable Andrea Phoenix raised the police bail by \$500.
82. That on December 26, 2008, at approximately 1:00 p.m. the Plaintiff JIN HONG was released from custody after a relative posted the bail.
83. That on February 26, 2009, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO caused three (3) additional accusatory instruments he prepared and subscribed to be filed against Plaintiff JIN HONG, charging her with two counts of Failure to Signal (VTL 1163(a)) and Reckless Driving (VTL § 1212), all of which allegedly occurred at 10:45 p.m. on December 11, 2008.
84. That on February 26, 2009, the Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO commenced and continued the prosecution of these charges without probable cause to believe the action would succeed because he knew full well the Plaintiff JIN HONG did not commit the offenses charged in the accusatory instruments he filed.
85. That on February 26, 2009, the Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO acted with actual malice when he filed additional false charges against the Plaintiff JIN HONG, falsely accusing her again of the exact same acts he already charged her with two months earlier.

86. That on March 9, 2009, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO caused three (3) additional accusatory instruments he prepared and subscribed to be filed against Plaintiff JIN HONG, falsely charging her with Failure to Yield (VTL § 1143), Driving at an Speed not Reasonable and Prudent (VTL § 1180(a)), and Driving without Proper Headlights (VTL § 375(2)(a)), all of which allegedly occurred at 10:45 p.m. on December 11, 2008.
87. That on March 9, 2009, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO commenced and continued this prosecution without probable cause to believe the prosecution could be sustained because he knew the Plaintiff JIN HONG did not commit any of these offenses.
88. That on March 9, 2009, Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO commenced these actions and continued the prosecution with actual malice, falsely accusing her again in this third batch of charges of the exact same acts he already charged her with two and a half months earlier.
89. That on March 11, 2009 Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG and XIUZHEN GUO, served a Notice of Claim upon the County of Nassau stating their intent to seek damages for Defendants' conduct complained of herein.
90. That all requirements of section 50H of the Municipal Law have been complied with and this action was commenced within one year and ninety (90) days of the incident.
91. That on June 26, 2009, the Honorable Sondra K. Pardes granted the Plaintiff JIN HONG's motion to dismiss all accusatory instruments charging the VTL offenses.
92. That the dismissal of all VTL offenses terminated the prosecution in favor of the Plaintiff JIN HONG, with respect to the six false charges contained in the uniform traffic tickets issued by Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO on December 12, 2008, the three VTL offenses Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely charged Plaintiff JIN HONG with on

February 26, 2009, and the three VTL offenses Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO falsely charged Plaintiff JIN HONG with on March 9, 2009.

93. That the sole remaining count of Unlawful Fleeing of a Police Officer was adjourned in contemplation of dismissal on March 24, 2010 for a period of one day and was dismissed and sealed on March 25, 2010.

94. That as a result of the conduct described herein, the Plaintiff JIN HONG suffered damages as a result of the Defendants' conduct in that she has expended large sums of money defending herself against the false charges Defendants brought against her, has suffered violations of her civil and constitutional rights, damage to her reputation and good name, loss of standing in the community, panic attacks, mental anguish, emotional distress, inability to sleep, and certain mental disorders which have rendered her unable to work, in need of medical treatment, and unable to enjoy life, all of which caused her to lose her job, suffer physical manifestations from these ailments, and incur substantial monetary damages.

95. That as a result of the Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff YONG HUA DONG suffered violations of his civil and constitutional rights, and damages in that he is now unable to sleep, suffers from mental anguish, damage to his reputation, emotional distress, a loss of enjoyment of life, physical manifestations from these ailments, has had to seek medical treatment, and will need to seek further medical treatment in the future, all of which caused him to incur substantial monetary damages.

96. That as a result of the Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff XIUZHEN GUO suffered violations of her civil and constitutional rights and other damages in that she is now unable to sleep, suffers from shock and mental anguish, damage to her reputation,

97. That as a result of the Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff JIAMOU HONG suffered violations of his civil and constitutional rights, and other damages including the inability to sleep, shock, mental anguish, emotional distress, knee problems, the inability to relate to his wife, and other harms as a direct result of the Defendants' conduct which also caused his untimely death.
98. That the conduct described herein and the resulting injuries to the Plaintiffs were caused solely by reason of the carelessness, negligence, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, actual malice, false arrest, and malicious prosecution on the part of the Defendants, their agents, agents, police officers, and employees, in violation of the Plaintiffs' civil and constitutional rights, and without any cause, provocation, or negligence on the part of the Plaintiffs contributing thereto.
99. That by reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG and XIUZHEN GUO, have been damaged in an amount to be determined upon trial of this matter and/or in the sum of ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000) DOLLARS.

POLICE DEPARTMENT believed that their actions would not be properly monitored by

COUNTY OF NASSAU including those employed by Defendant NASSAU COUNTY

104. That as a result of the practices and customs described herein, police officers in THE violations on the part of police officers.

Officer Defendants, thereby failing to adequately discourage further constitutional

police officers, including Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other Police

NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT to inadequately supervise and train its

103. That it was the policy and/or custom of Defendants THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and Defendants.

of police misconduct, and the acts of misconduct were instead tolerated by the

Police Officer Defendants, to inadequately and improperly investigate citizen complaints

NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other

102. That it was the policy and/or custom of Defendants THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, which caused the violations of the Plaintiffs' civil and constitutional rights.

deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of persons in the County of Nassau

Officer Defendants developed and maintained policies or customs that exhibited a

COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other Police

101. That Prior to December 11, 2008, Defendants THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NASSAU herein.

paragraphs 1-99 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth

100. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in

(Monell Claim)

(All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)

CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION - CIVIL RIGHTS AND

108. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-107 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION – CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS
(In Hong Against All Defendants)**

107. That the Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Defendant PO's, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert, invaded the Plaintiffs Right to Privacy guaranteed to them by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution by entering their home in the middle of the night without a warrant, without their consent, and without any lawful justification, and tearing them from their beds at gunpoint and then searching the entire house.

106. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-105 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION – CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS
(All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

105. That the police and customs described above demonstrate a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of Defendants THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, MICHAEL PALAZZO, and the other Police Officer Defendants, which were the cause of the violations of the Plaintiffs' civil and constitutional rights alleged herein.

would be tolerated.

supervisory officers and that misconduct would not be investigated or sanctioned, but

109. That the Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting and acting in concert with each other, and under the color of state law, utilized misconduct to procure false evidence against the Plaintiff JIN HONG, that the Plaintiff JIN HONG suffered a deprivation of liberty through her initial arrest and being taken into custody at arraignment, and that the deprivations of liberty Plaintiff JIN HONG suffered by being taken into custody is a legally cognizable result of the Defendants' initial misconduct in falsely claiming to have witnessed Plaintiff JIN HONG commit crimes, that Plaintiff JIN HONG did not in fact commit, and which were never in fact even committed at all.

110. That Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants are employed by, are representatives of, and were acting on behalf of Defendants THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, where the procurement and utilization of false evidence are a policy and custom, and which caused the Plaintiff JIN HONG to be denied the constitutional right to due process.

111. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-110 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

112. That Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intended to cause Plaintiff JIN HONG imminent apprehension of harmful or offensive bodily contact, and did in fact cause Plaintiff JIN HONG imminent apprehension of harmful or offensive bodily contact when they approached her, arrested her, and kept her in custody on false

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW ASSAULT
(Jin Hong against all Defendants)**

charges, all of which they did without the consent of Plaintiff JIN HONG, without provocation, and with no lawful justification or privilege.

113. That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants assaulted Plaintiff JIN HONG while working for, as representatives of, with the express or implied consent of, at the instruction of, and for the benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW ASSAULT
(Yong Hua Dong, Jiamou Hong, and Xiuzhen Guo against all Defendants)

114. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-13 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

115. That Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intended to cause Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO imminent apprehension of harmful or offensive bodily contact, and did in fact cause Plaintiffs apprehension of harmful or offensive bodily contact when they barged into their home in the middle of the night, uninvited and with no legal justification for being there, awoke them at gun point, and forced them from their beds and into the hallway, all of which they did without the consent of Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO, without provocation, and with no lawful justification or purpose.

116. That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants assaulted Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO, while working for, as representatives of, at the instruction of, and for the benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.

117. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-16 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

118. That Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intended to cause Plaintiff JIN HONG harmful or offensive bodily contact, and did in fact cause Plaintiff JIN HONG to suffer harmful or offensive bodily contact, by physically handcuffing her with the intent to falsely arrest her, all of which they did without the consent of Plaintiff JIN HONG, without provocation, and with no lawful justification or purpose.

119. That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants battered Plaintiff JIN HONG, while working for, as representatives of, with the express or implied consent of, at the instruction of, and for the benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW BATTERY
(Jin Hong against all Defendants)

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW BATTERY
(Yong Hua Dong, Jiamou Hong, and Xiuzhen Guo against all Defendants)

120. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-115 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

121. That Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while

aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, did intend to

cause Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO harmful or offensive bodily contact, and did in fact cause Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU

HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO to suffer harmful or offensive bodily contact, by physically removing them from their beds when they entered the Plaintiffs' home uninvited, all of

which they did without the consent of Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO without provocation, and with no lawful justification or purpose.

122. That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants battered Plaintiffs YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO, while working for, as

representatives of, with the express or implied consent of, at the instruction of, and for the benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY

POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official

polices and customs.

Plaintiff JIN HONG by drafting and subscribing several accusatory instruments which he
Officer Defendants, commenced and continued a criminal prosecution against the

127. That the Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO, while acting in concert with the other Police
forth herein.

126. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in
paragraphs 1-125 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set

(Jin Hong against All Defendants)

PROSECUTION

AS AND FOR A NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW MALICIOUS

complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.
vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts

COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are
consent of, on the instruction of, and for the intended benefit of, their employers THE
Plaintiff JIN HONG while working for, as representatives of, with the express or implied

125. That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants falsely arrested
Officer Defendants was not privileged.

of Plaintiff JIN HONG by Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police
confinement, Plaintiff JIN HONG did not consent to being confined, and the confinement
intended to confine Plaintiff JIN HONG, Plaintiff JIN HONG was conscious of her

124. That the Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants
forth herein.

123. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in
paragraphs 1-122 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set

(Jin Hong against all Defendants)

AS AND FOR A EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION – STATE LAW FALSE ARREST

129. That the Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege, each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-128 of this complaint with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

130. That the Defendants MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants, while aiding and abetting each other and acting in concert with each other, intentionally inflicted emotional distress on the Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO, by engaging in extreme and outrageous conduct in approaching each of them on their own property at gunpoint and in the middle of the night, entering their house without permission or lawful basis, tearing them from their beds while screaming at them, ransacking their house for no valid reason, screaming

**AS AND FOR A TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION – INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
(All Plaintiffs against All Defendants)**

128. Plaintiff JIN HONG, caused to be successively filed, charging Plaintiff JIN HONG with criminal offenses under the VTL, which he knew lacked the probable cause to succeed, which he acted with actual malice in causing each to be filed, and which were terminated in favor of the Plaintiff JIN HONG.

That MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants maliciously prosecuted Plaintiff JIN HONG while working for, as representatives of, with the express or implied consent of, on the instruction of, and for the intended benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.

obscenities at and falsely arresting Plaintiff JIN HONG, causing the Plaintiffs severe and debilitating distress which caused physical symptoms to manifest in each Plaintiff.

131. That Defendant MICHAEL PALAZZO and the other Police Officer Defendants intentionally inflicted extreme emotional distress upon Plaintiffs JIN HONG, YONG HUA DONG, JIAMOU HONG, and XIUZHEN GUO while working for, as

representatives of, with the express or implied consent of, on the instruction of, and for the intended benefit of, their employers THE COUNTY OF NASSAU and NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT who are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees and otherwise liable because the acts complained of were committed pursuant to official policies and customs.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs demand judgment in the amount of ONE MILLION

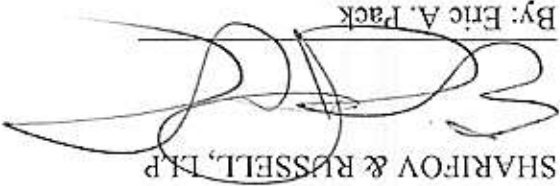
(\$1,000,000) DOLLARS in compensatory damages and of ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000) DOLLARS in punitive damages on the, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and

tenth causes of action, and of ONE MILLION (\$1,000,000) DOLLARS in compensatory damages on the first, second, and third causes of action, together with attorneys' fees, the costs and disbursements of bringing this action, and any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Hempstead, New York
March 14, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

SHARIFOV & RUSSELL, LLP



By: Eric A. Pack

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